



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Phelan-McDermid syndrome, also known as 22q13.3 deletion syndrome, is a rare genetic condition caused by the loss of a small piece of chromosome 22 in the 22q13 region; and
- WHEREAS: The symptoms and severity of Phelan-McDermid syndrome vary, though the condition may be characterized by developmental delay, moderate-to-profound intellectual disability, decreased muscle tone, absent or delayed speech, autism spectrum disorder, and epilepsy; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals affected by Phelan-McDermid syndrome often show symptoms of the condition in the early childhood years; and
- WHEREAS: It is important to test for and accurately detect Phelan-McDermid syndrome, though the microdeletion associated with the condition is rarely detected by typical genetic screenings. Therefore, a fluorescence in situ hybridization test or whole exome sequencing is recommended to confirm a diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS: There is no cure or single treatment specifically for Phelan-McDermid syndrome. Standard therapies seek to address the symptoms associated with the condition; and
- WHEREAS: Many individuals, parents of those affected by the condition, and advocacy groups are dedicated to raising awareness of Phelan-McDermid syndrome and its symptoms through scientific educational opportunities and the exchange of information; and
- WHEREAS: Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Awareness Day provides opportunities to increase understanding of Phelan-McDermid syndrome and ensure the timely diagnosis of the condition to improve the quality of life for those affected; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2018, as PHELAN-MCDERMID SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Rely*  
CHIEF OF STAFF